SF Bay Baylands

Since 1800s, SF Bay lost 85-90% of its 170,000 acres of Baylands (tidal marsh and mudflat) to diking and filling.

Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report (Goals Report 1999)

- First comprehensive vision of how to restore baylands by developing goals in the form of habitat acreage targets by region
- Set goal of 100,000 acres of tidal marsh restoration for SF Bay
- 13,000 acres have been restored to tidal action between 1999-2014
- Climate Change Update to Goals Report will be released in 2015 with the following recommendations:
    - Restore Baylands to full tidal action prior to 2030 to maximize marsh accretion
    - Plan for Baylands to migrate landward after 2070 when rates of sea level rise are expected to outpace accretion capability of Baylands

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (2000-present)

- Cargill proposed to consolidate its operations and sell lands and salt production rights on 61% of its South Bay operation area in October 2000
- Acquisition of the majority of Cargill salt ponds 16,500 acres total: North Bay (1400 acres), South Bay (15,100 acres) in 2002
- Cost = $100 million total: ($72 million from California's Wildlife Conservation Board, $8 million for USFWS and $20 million from private foundations)
- Restoration plans integrated with flood protection needs
- Phase 1 (2002-2014) approximately 3000 acres of former industrial salt ponds have been restored to tidal action
- Phase 2 (2015-2050) will continue to make progress towards 7500+ acre goal of tidal marsh restoration

South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline Study – Just released for public review)

- Draft Interim Feasibility Report and EIS/R released December 2014 (analyzes Alviso Ponds segment only and being coordinated with South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project)
- From the Report, Section S.5.1 Federal Interest:
    - The USACE completed a reconnaissance analysis in September 2004 and determined that the current and future conditions in the South Bay, warranted a Federal flood risk management and ecosystem restoration project. This is a phased planning effort because of the large geographic extent of the South San Francisco Bay area; the complexity of the hydrology, hydraulics, and combined flood risk management and ecosystem restoration components; and the anticipation of Federal and non-Federal funding availability. The geographic shoreline/flood plain areas under evaluation include San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Alameda County. Restoration could include pond conversion to tidal marsh, construction of an ecotone feature (between the proposed USACE flood risk management levee and tidal marsh), and phased pond dike breaching guided by monitoring and adaptive management.